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Z 090330Z DEC 73 ZYH ZFF-1 ZFF-4
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 007

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

~~T O P S E C R E T~~ SENSITIVE VIA [REDACTED] CONTAINS

CODEWORD WH37488

TOHAK007

TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

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CONTAINS CODEWORD

DECEMBER 9, 1973

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

MORI PER C03342256

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: MORNING REPORT

MIDDLE EAST MILITARY BALANCE: DESPITE THEIR LOSSES, THE IS-
REALIS ARE IN A BETTER OVER-ALL MILITARY POSTURE NOW THAN THEY
WERE AT THE OUTSET OF THE WAR. NOT ONLY ARE THEY BETTER EQUIP-
PED, THEY ARE ALSO MOBILIZED, ON ALERT, AND POSITIONED IN FORCE
ON THE BATTLE LINES. THE ARABS HAVE LOST THE ELEMENT OF SUR-
PRISE, AND ALTHOUGH THEY RETAIN NUMERICAL ADVANTAGES IN MEN
AND EQUIPMENT, THEIR ARMED FORCES DO NOT HAVE THE FIGHTING
CAPABILITY OF THE ISRAELIS. A RESUMPTION OF THE FIGHTING WOULD
INVOLVE HIGH CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES, HOWEVER, AND WOULD NOT
NECESSARILY RESULT IN EASY SUCCESSSES FOR THE ISRAELIS.

MASSIVE RESUPPLY EFFORTS BY THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE
PERMITTED BOTH ISRAEL AND THE ARABS TO REBUILD THEIR INVENTORIES
OF MAJOR WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION TO NEAR PRE-WAR LEVELS. THE
LOSS OF TRAINED PERSONNEL POSES A GREATER PROBLEM FOR THE ARABS
THAN THE ISRAELIS. ALTHOUGH BOTH SYRIA AND EGYPT STILL HAVE A

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SCOWCROFT, M FARLANE

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NSA & DOS reviews
completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

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SIGNIFICANT OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY, IT WILL BE MONTHS BEFORE SUFFICIENT PERSONNEL CAN BE TRAINED TO REPLACE THOSE LOST. THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE RETAINS A MARKED SUPERIORITY, BOTH IN AERIAL COMBAT AND IN SUPPORT OF GROUND FORCES. EGYPT'S AND SYRIA'S SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE FORCES -- THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THEIR AIR DEFENSE -- HAVE BEEN ALMOST COMPLETELY REBUILT. SYRIA HAS INCREASED ITS SAM FORCE BY THREE UNITS TO A TOTAL OF 40, AND EGYPT HAS APPROXIMATELY 110 SAM UNITS OPERATIONAL. IN TERMS OF ARMOR, BOTH SIDES HAVE RECEIVED OR REPAIRED SUFFICIENT NUMBERS OF TANKS ONCE AGAIN TO FIELD LARGE FORCES. SHOULD HOSTILITIES RESUME, THE ISRAELIS WOULD BE IN A BETTER TACTICAL POSITION ON BOTH FRONTS THAN THE ARABS. ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, ISRAELI FORCES ARE IN A PARTICULARLY GOOD POSITION TO COUNTER A SYRIAN ATTACK. AGAINST EGYPT, ISRAEL'S ARMORED FORCES ARE POSITIONED TO CONDUCT EITHER MOBILE DEFENSIVE MANEUVERS OR TO CARRY OUT OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS ON EITHER BANK OF THE SUEZ CANAL.

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GKR NEGOTIATIONS PROBES: CHARGE ENDERS HAS REPORTED THAT GKR LEADERS SHOW NO JOY OVER THEIR NARROW ESCAPE DECEMBER 4 AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND ARE ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANOTHER CREDENTIALS CONFRONTATION NEXT YEAR. HE NOTES THAT THE UN DEBATE HAS PRODUCED NEW PRESSURES WITHIN THE GKR FOR NEGOTIATIONS AS A MEANS TO FORESTALL ANOTHER CHALLENGE AND PREDICTS THAT KHMER EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE DESPITE THE FAVORABLE VOTE. FOR EXAMPLE, FIRST DEPUTY PREMIER HAK -- ACTING ON HIS OWN -- RECENTLY APPROACHED THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR

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TO ASK CANBERRA TO SOUND OUT THE PRC AND SIHANOUK ON THEIR TERMS. (THE AUSTRALIANS WISELY ASKED WHETHER THIS INITIATIVE HAD BEEN CLEARED BY LON NOI AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.) IN ANOTHER NEGOTIATING PROBE, SIRIK MATAK SUGGESTED THAT THE KHMER QUESTION BE RAISED AT THE FORTHCOMING MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE. ENDERS REPORTS THAT HE HAS POLITELY DISCOURAGED BOTH OF THESE IDEAS. (STEARMAN/ADAMS)

PAK-AFGHAN TENSIONS: SOME DEVELOPMENTS THIS MONTH HAVE ADDED NEW FUEL TO THE TENSIONS BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. THE DECEMBER 3 KILLING OF A PROMINENT INDEPENDENT POLITICAL FIGURE IN PAKISTAN'S BALUCHISTAN PROVINCE BY UNKNOWN ASSASSINS HAS BEEN GIVEN HEAVY AFGHAN RADIO AND PRESS PLAY IMPLYING PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT COMPLICITY IN THE MURDER. ADDITIONALLY, OUR EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT THE OPPOSITION NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY IN PAKISTAN'S NORTHWEST FRONTIER PROVINCE, WHICH RECEIVES VERBAL AND POSSIBLY SOME MATERIAL SUPPORT FROM AFGHANISTAN, RECENTLY DECIDED TO EMPLOY SABOTAGE AND DESTRUCTION AS POLITICAL WEAPONS AGAINST THE BHUTTO GOVERNMENT. THIS COULD LEAD BHUTTO TO TAKE NEW STEPS AGAINST THE OPPOSITION IN THAT PROVINCE, AND THAT IN TURN COULD LEAD TO A FURTHER ESCALATION OF AFGHAN RHETORICAL BELLIGERENCE.

IN WHAT IS POTENTIALLY THE MOST SERIOUS NEW DEVELOPMENT, [REDACTED] KABUL HAS REPORTED THAT RECENT SOVIET MILITARY AID TO AFGHANISTAN INCLUDED OVER 850 TANKS. IF THIS TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE, AFGHANISTAN'S MILITARY CAPABILITIES, NOW GREATLY INFERIOR TO THOSE OF PAKISTAN, WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED. AMBASSADOR BYROADE BELIEVES THERE COULD BE "AN IMMEDIATE AND EXTREME REACTION" FROM BOTH BHUTTO AND THE SHAH IF AND WHEN THEY HEAR OF THIS ALLEGED TANK SHIPMENT. THE PAKISTANI AND AFGHAN GOVERNMENTS BOTH CLAIM THEY WANT TO AVOID A MAJOR CONFRONTATION, BUT THEY CONTINUE TO DO THINGS THAT

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IRRITATE EACH OTHER. THE BHUTTO GOVERNMENT HAS CONTINUED TO SUPPRESS ITS FRONTIER-AREA POLITICAL OPPONENTS, WHO ENJOY CONSIDERABLE SYMPATHY IN AFGHANISTAN, AND THE DAUD GOVERNMENT HAS CONTINUED TO CARG AT ISLAMABAD ON THE PUSHTUNISTAN QUESTION AND OTHER ISSUES. IN THIS ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL SUSPICION AND ACCUSATION, A LOCALIZED INCIDENT SUCH AS A SMALL BORDER CLASH COULD EASILY ESCALATE INTO SOMETHING MORE SERIOUS. (APPELBAUM/SAUNDERS)

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